

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

[www.dcd.uscourts.gov](http://www.dcd.uscourts.gov)

## MEDIA GUIDELINES

### **ENTRY INTO THE COURTHOUSE:**

Members of the Media who are credentialed by either Court or who are credentialed by another federal or D.C. government entity, including the Supreme Court, Congress, a federal agency, or the D.C. government, are allowed to bring electronic devices with camera and recording capabilities into the courthouse and annex.

More information on the entry requirements/restrictions can be found on the Court's website under *Requirements for Entry*.

### **THE FIRST FLOOR MEDIA ROOM:** (Room #1206)

In certain cases, the Media Room will provide a remote location for video and audio transmission of proceedings from specified courtrooms.

**NOTE:** Video and audio recording or transmission of court proceedings are strictly prohibited. There shall be no broadcasting from the First Floor Media Room. Any violation of this prohibition may result in the banning of all laptops from the remote facility or the closing of the facility and the imposition of contempt sanctions against the violator individually and, if attending in the capacity of an employee or agent, against the employer or principal.

### **COURTROOMS:**

Cellular phones, palm pilots, pagers, computers and all other electronic and telecommunications equipment must be turned off and kept off while inside any courtroom.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY, TAPE RECORDING, BROADCASTING IN THE COURTHOUSE:** (LOCAL RULE 83.1)

A portion of the above-mentioned Rule states:

“The taking of photographs and operation of tape recorders inside the United States Courthouse and radio or television broadcasting from inside the courthouse during the progress of or in connection with judicial proceedings, including proceedings before a United States Magistrate Judge, whether or not court is actually in session, are prohibited.”

### **COURT TRANSCRIPTS:**

Information on the electronic transcript policy can be found on the Court's website under *Attorney Information* and then *Policy with Regard to Electronic Transcripts of Court Proceedings*.

Information on purchasing transcripts can be found on the Court's website under *Attorney Information* and then *Court Reporting Services*.

## **ACCESS TO COURT RECORDS:**

**Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER)** is an electronic public access service that allows users to obtain case and docket information from Federal Appellate, District and Bankruptcy courts, and the U.S. Party/Case Index via the Internet. Links to all courts are provided from this web site. Electronic access is available by registering with the PACER Service Center, the judiciary's centralized registration, billing, and technical support center. The PACER homepage can be found at: <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/>

Each court maintains its own database of case information. Because PACER database systems are maintained within each court, each jurisdiction will have a different URL. Accessing and querying information from each service is comparable; however, the format and content of information provided may differ slightly.

Please visit [www.dcd.uscourts.gov](http://www.dcd.uscourts.gov) for more information specific to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

## **OBTAINING A MEDIA ACCOUNT:**

Members of the media can obtain a media account through PACER, which allows them to sign up for email alerts of any/all cases they are following. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.dcd.uscourts.gov/dcd/media>